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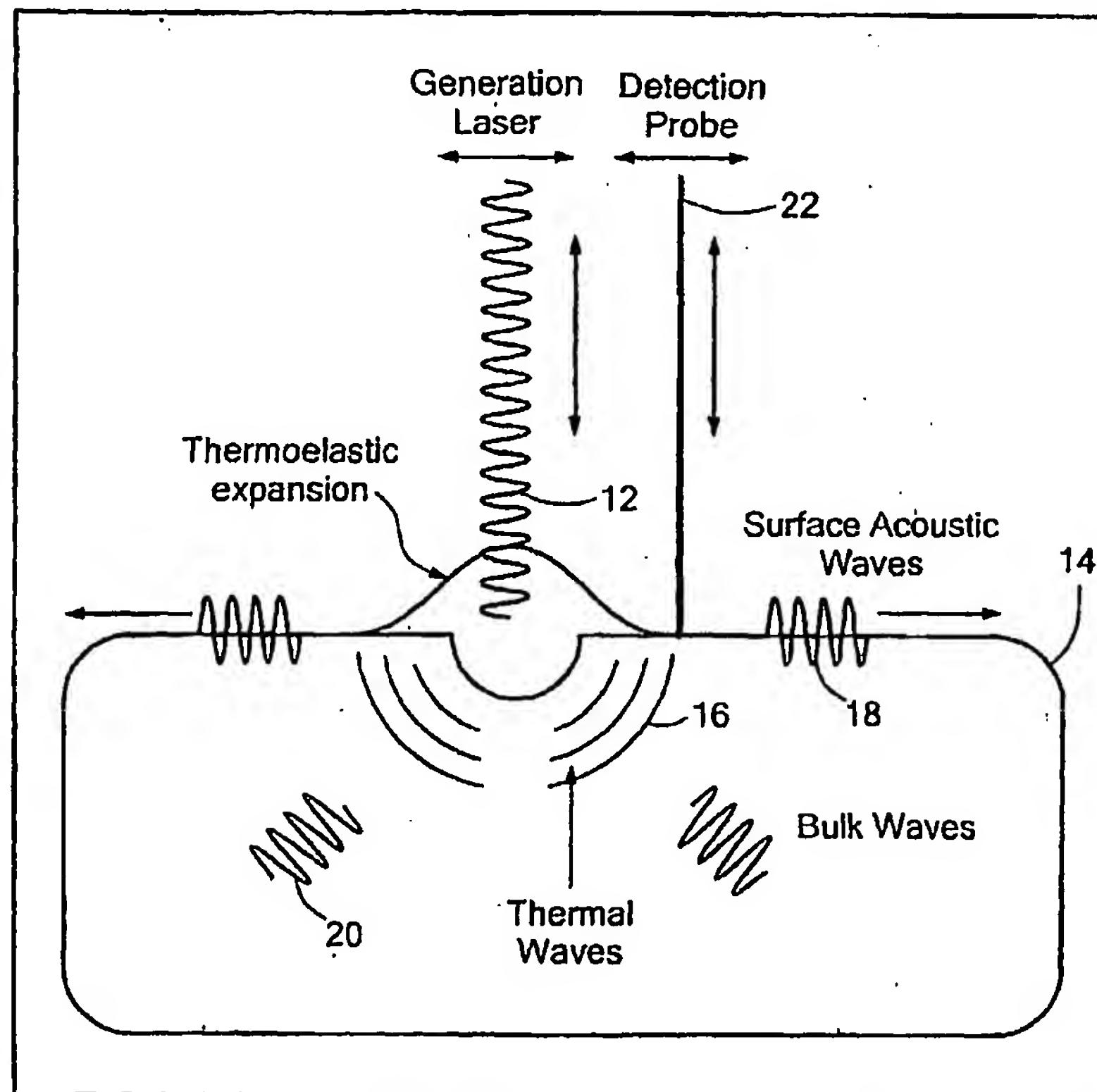
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(54) Title: CHARACTERIZATION OF MICRO- AND NANO SCALE MATERIALS BY ACOUSTIC WAVE GENERATION WITH A CW MODULATED LASER



(57) Abstract: Apparatus for analyzing thin surface layers. An acoustic wave generating laser beam is amplitude modulated with continuous wave modulation of a frequency in the megahertz to gigahertz range and an optical system directs the modulated radiation to a surface of a thin surface layer. This in turn causes an acoustic wave that is sensed and analyzed to provide an indication of properties of thin surface layer.

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